

is worn by trituration during life. The coronal surface is remarkably smooth, even more so than in the English Upper Cretaceous species, *A. levis* (unless it be in part due to wear), only a few short, rounded, radiating ridges being observed upon the sides. The indistinctness of the markings, considered in connexion with proportions already noted, separates the tooth from those of all other species yet known; and the name of *Acrodus nitidus* will recall its most prominent peculiarity.

Other remains from the Upper Cretaceous beds are still too imperfect for certain determination. One fragment appears to be a portion of the cranial roof of a large *Arapaima*-like fish; but this and the accompanying fossils must be left for interpretation by further discoveries, which, it is to be hoped, may soon result from continued search.

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XV.—On new or little-known South-African Reptiles.

By G. A. BOULENGER.

DURING a recent visit to Europe Mr. L. Peringuey, Assistant Director of the South-African Museum, Cape Town, submitted to me various interesting Reptiles, which form the subject of the following notes. They were obtained partly by Mr. Peringuey himself in Namaqualand and Damaraland, between the mouth of the Orange River and Walfisch Bay, partly by M. Juste De Coster at Delagoa Bay.

Duplicates of some of the new or rare species, viz. *Homopus signatus*, *Ædura africana*, *Pachydactylus fasciatus*, *Rhoptropus afer*, *Mabuia Peringueyi*, *Typhlops Schlegelii*, and *Homalosoma variegatum*, have been presented to the British Museum by the Trustees of the South-African Museum.

*Homopus signatus*, Walb.

Two specimens were obtained by Mr. Peringuey at O'Kiep, Namaqualand (2500 feet), and afford the first information as to the animal of this tortoise, known for a century from the shell only. The young specimens referred by Gray to *H. signatus* belong to *H. arcolatus*. It is surprising to find that the number of claws in the fore foot is five instead of four, the characteristic number in *Homopus*; the tortoise is none

the less a true *Homopus*, owing to the structure of the jaws, and is very closely allied to *H. areolatus*. The small importance of the presence or absence of a claw in this group of Chelonians is also well shown by the Central-Asian *Tes- tudo Horsfieldii*, which, though in every other respect extremely closely related to *T. ibera*, has only four claws to each foot, and would accordingly enter the genus *Homopus* as defined in the 'Erpétologie générale.'

The limbs are scaled as in *H. areolatus*, except that a large conical tubercle is present on the hinder side of the thigh. Forehead covered with numerous small and irregular shields. Head and neck yellowish, spotted with black above.

Sir A. Smith's statement (Illustr. Zool. S. Africa, Append. p. 1) that *H. signatus* is "common throughout the whole of Southern Africa" is probably the result of erroneous identification.

*Edura africana*, sp. n.

Head moderate, much depressed, oviform; snout as long as the distance between the eye and the ear-opening, once and a half the diameter of the orbit; ear-opening small, oval, oblique. Head covered with uniform small, round, flat granules; nostril pierced between the rostral and three nasals, the upper of which is large and forms a suture with its fellow behind the rostral; ten upper and as many lower labials; no chin-shields. Back covered with uniform small granules, which are scarcely larger than those on the head; ventral scales larger, subimbricate, smooth. Digits strongly dilated, the basal portion as broad as the distal expansion, which is a little broader than long; two pairs of large plates at the extremity of the basal portion, which is otherwise covered with very small scales. Male with an angular series of thirteen præanal pores. Tail much depressed, as long as head and body; its width at the base nearly equals that of the body; it is divided into very distinct segments, composed of seven or eight transverse series of small smooth scales above and five inferiorly. Greyish above, with small brown spots and transverse brown bands, five on the body and three on the tail.

|                    | millim. |
|--------------------|---------|
| Total length.....  | 129     |
| Head.....          | 16      |
| Width of head..... | 12      |
| Body.....          | 48      |
| Fore limb.....     | 21      |
| Hind limb.....     | 28      |
| Tail.....          | 65      |

Two specimens were taken from the stomach of the *Pythonodipsas* from Damaraland described below, one half-digested, the other in very good condition.

This discovery is a startling one, the very natural genus *Ædura*, containing five or six species, being, according to previous knowledge, strictly Australian. It reminds us of the curious fact of the nearly related genus *Phyllodactylus* presenting two closely allied species, regarded as identical by some herpetologists, in South Africa (*P. porphyreus*) and in Australia (*P. marmoratus*).

*Pachydactylus fasciatus*, sp. n.

Head oviform, very distinct from neck; snout a little longer than the diameter of the orbit; ear-opening small, oval, not half the diameter of the eye. Snout covered with enlarged oval granules; hinder part of head with minute granules, intermixed with oval, smooth, or obtusely keeled tubercles; naso-rostrals in contact; eight or nine upper and seven lower labials; mental twice as long as broad, narrower than the neighbouring labials; no chin-shields. Upper parts covered with minute granules intermixed with large trihedral tubercles forming eighteen longitudinal series; ventral scales moderate. Digits dilated at the end; nine lamellæ under the dilated part of the median toes. Tail with transverse series of pointed, keeled tubercles; lower surface with enlarged, imbricate, smooth scales. Pale brown above, with dark brown transverse bands, which are more distinct in the young than in the adult; a dark brown horseshoe-shaped streak round the back of the head and passing through the eyes; three cross bands on the body, the first and second very broad, the third across the sacrum, from eight to ten on the tail.

|                    | millim. |
|--------------------|---------|
| Total length.....  | 107     |
| Head.....          | 15      |
| Width of head..... | 10·5    |
| Body.....          | 34      |
| Fore limb.....     | 17      |
| Hind limb.....     | 22      |
| Tail.....          | 58      |

Closely allied to *P. Bibronii*; distinguished by a less stout habit, smaller size, smaller ear-opening, and in coloration.

Two examples, a gravid female and a young specimen; Namaqualand.

*Agama planiceps*, Peters.

Several specimens were obtained in Namaqualand by Mr. Peringuey.

Adult male with the head and tail uniform bright orange and the body and limbs blackish. Half-grown with a yellow vertebral streak, symmetrical yellow spots on the head, and a large orange spot above the axilla.

*Mabuia Peringueyi*, sp. n.

Snout moderate, obtuse. Lower eyelid with an undivided transparent disk. Nostril just above the suture between the rostral and the first labial; a postnasal; anterior loreal in contact with the first labial; supranasals in contact behind the rostral or narrowly separate; frontonasal broader than long; præfrontals in contact, forming a short suture; frontal as long as the frontoparietals and interparietal together, in contact with the second and third supraoculars; four supraoculars, second largest; five supraciliaries; frontoparietals distinct, smaller than the interparietal; parietals not touching each other; a pair of nuchals; subocular not narrowed inferiorly, much larger than the labials, between the fourth and fifth. Ear-opening oval, about as large as the transparent palpebral disk, with two or three long pointed lobules anteriorly. Dorsal scales strongly tri- or quinquecarinate; 30 scales round the middle of the body, equal. The adpressed limbs do not meet. Subdigital lamellæ smooth. Blackish brown above, with light brown longitudinal streaks corresponding to the series of scales; head pale brown, with the sutures between the shields black; ear-lobules white; sides with white spots; lower surfaces white.

|                             | millim. |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| Total length . . . . .      | 177     |
| Head . . . . .              | 17      |
| Width of head . . . . .     | 14      |
| Body . . . . .              | 83      |
| Fore limb . . . . .         | 22      |
| Hind limb . . . . .         | 36      |
| Tail (reproduced) . . . . . | 77      |

Two specimens; Namaqualand.

Very closely allied to *M. homalocephala*.

*Typhlops Schlegelii*, Bianc.

The collection made at Delagoa Bay by M. Juste De Coster

contains two specimens of this very rare snake, of which only one well-authenticated specimen from Mozambique was known. The largest of the two measures 69 centim. in length and 28 millim. in diameter—as great a size as attained by any known *Typhlops*.

*Homalosoma variegatum*, Peters.

This species was known from a single specimen from Inhambane, Mozambique. Several specimens obtained by M. De Coster at Delagoa Bay belong to two colour-varieties, one of which is identical with the type figured by Peters. The new variety is characterized by the pale olive-brown colour of the upper parts, with a series of large black spots; the anterior of these spots are the largest and transverse; they gradually diminish in size and alternate towards the end of the body, and finally become confluent into a median line on the tail.

*Pythonodipsas carinata*, Gthr.

*Pythonodipsas carinata*, Günth., Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. [4] i. 1868, p. 426, pl. xix. fig. K.

The rediscovery of this snake, of which but a single specimen, from the Zambesi, was on record, is of great interest. The unique specimen obtained by Mr. Peringuey in Damara-land differs from the type in some trifling points, and from its being in a perfect state of preservation deserves description.

Snout truncate, concave above; nostril pierced vertically between two shields, the nasal and the internasal; a pair of large præfrontals and a pair of small shields between the latter and the frontal; eye surrounded by nine or ten shields, viz. the supraocular, which is as large as the frontal, a præocular, and seven or eight small equal shields; loreals 1+1+2; temporals small and numerous; parietals broken up into small shields; nine upper labials; six lower labials in contact with the mentals, of which there are two pairs, the front pair as long as and broader than the hind pair. Scales in twenty-one rows, smooth, feebly keeled on the hinder part of the body and on the tail. Ventrals 192; anal entire; subcaudals 55. Pale buff above, with a double alternating series of square, grey, black-edged spots, a few of which coalesce to form transverse bars; lips with vertical grey bars; lower parts white.

Total length 417 millim.; tail 63.

*Elapsoidea Decosteri*, sp. n.

Closely allied to *E. Sundevallii*, Smith. Snout pointed, projecting; suture between the internasals half as long as that between the præfrontals; frontal as long as its distance from the end of the snout, much longer than broad; parietals as long as their distance from the rostral; one præ- and two postoculars; temporals 1+2; seven upper labials, sixth largest, second in contact with the præfrontal, third and fourth entering the eye; four lower labials in contact with the chin-shields, of which the posterior pair is a little longer than the anterior. Scales in thirteen rows. Ventrals 138; anal undivided; subcaudals 25 pairs. Dark grey above, each scale edged with black; uniform white inferiorly.

Total length 45 centim.; tail 5.

A single specimen; Delagoa Bay. Presented by M. J. De Coster to the South-African Museum.

*Vipera Peringueyi*, sp. n.

Head very distinct from neck, slightly longer than broad, truncate anteriorly; nostrils and eyes turned upwards; upper head-scales strongly keeled, smallest on the vertex; nostril pierced between three scales, the upper of which is large and separated from its fellow by two scales and from the rostral by two series of scales; one series of scales between the labials and the lower nasals; eye small, surrounded by a circle of eleven small subequal scales; eight scales in a transverse series between the eyes; three series of scales between the eye and the labials; rostral small, broad, crescentic; eleven upper and as many lower labials; mental triangular; first lower labial forming a suture with its fellow behind the mental; one pair of mentals, separated from the first ventral by four series of smooth scales. Scales elliptic, keeled, except the two outer series on each side, in twenty-five rows. Ventrals 132; subcaudals transversely enlarged and smooth, two anterior undivided and 26 pairs. Pale buff above, with three longitudinal series of grey spots, the outer ocellar, enclosing a white centre; sides cream-colour, spotted with grey; belly cream-colour, with a few brown dots; end of tail black.

Total length 250 millim.; tail 27.

A single specimen, obtained by Mr. Peringuey in Damara-land, 10 miles east of Walfisch Bay.